

01-19-05

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Dear sirs at the USPTO:

This correspondence is in response to an Office Action for patent application # 10/803,626

Examiner Truc T. T. Nguyen: Art Unit 2833: Applicant Rapp, Robert J (Customer # 41400)

*copy of office Action attached.*



The action item specifies that this application contains claims directed to the following patentable distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species 1: Figures 1-4

Species 2: Figure 5

Species 3: Figure 6

In this response I intend to alter my patent application such that it addresses a single species by altering the claims such that they only include dependant claims, where Figures 1-4 show how individual modules are aligned and interconnected.

Fundamentally the invention is:

A modular electronic device where (predominantly) sealed modules are aligned and attached/connected in pre-determined sequences, forming a robust block-like structure with extendable function: Control and/or inter-module communication are implemented without direct electrical interconnect, by non-contact means. This device's inter-module power transfer may be with or without direct electrical contact, or devices may be internally powered. Power transfer through inductive/transformer action where one or more alignment pins are used as transformer core is one potential implementation.

Modified claims follow, thank you, Robert J. Rapp, Jan. 15, 2005.

*Robert J. Rapp*

Regarding: A robust modular electronic device without direct electrical connections for inter-module communication or control. By Robert J. Rapp, Customer Number 41400